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STABLE METHYLNALTREXONE PREPARATION

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/821,811, filed Apr. 8, 2004, entitled "PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULATION," which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) to U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/461,611, entitled "PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULATION," filed on Apr. 8, 2003, the contents of which applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to methylnaltrexone pharmaceutical preparations, methylnaltrexone formulations, methylnaltrexone kits, and methods of making the same.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Quaternary amine opioid antagonist derivatives have been shown to have utility in a number of contexts. They are considered peripherally acting only, and, therefore, find particular utility in reducing the side-effects of opioids without reducing the analgesic effect of opioids. Such side effects include nausea, emesis, dysphoria, pruritis, urinary retention, bowel hypomotility, constipation, gastric hypomotility, delayed gastric emptying and immune suppression. The utility of these peripherally acting opioid antagonists is not limited to reducing side-effects stemming from opioid analgesic treatment. Instead, these derivatives also have utility in circumstances where endogenous opioids alone (or in conjunction with exogenous opioid treatment) cause undesirable conditions such as ileus and other such conditions including, but not limited to, those mentioned above.

Methylnaltrexone is a quaternary amine opioid antagonist derivative, discovered in the mid-70s. Methylnaltrexone and some of its uses are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,176,186, 4,719,215, 4,861,781, 5,102,887, 5,972,954, and 6,274,591. Stable formulations of methylnaltrexone, however, have heretofore not existed. Methylnaltrexone apparently was assumed to have a structure that was inherently stable. The stability of a pharmaceutical composition in solution, however, is not necessarily predictable either over time when stored at room temperature or when autoclaved.

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist that acts both centrally and peripherally. It differs structurally from methylnaltrexone and would be expected to have a different stability in solution. An allegedly stable formulation of naloxone is described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,866,154.

Surprisingly, it has been discovered that methylnaltrexone is unusually unstable. It further has been discovered that methylnaltrexone has certain degradation products different from those of naloxone. It also has been discovered that critical parameters and conditions are required for stable formulations of methylnaltrexone.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect, the invention provides a composition or preparation that is a solution of methylnaltrexone or a salt thereof, wherein the preparation after autoclaving has a concentration of methylnaltrexone degradation products that does not exceed 2% of the methylnaltrexone or salt thereof in the preparation. Preferably, the concentration of such degradation products does not exceed 1.5%, 1%, 0.5%, 0.25%, or

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even 0.125% of the methylnaltrexone or salt thereof in the preparation. The composition or preparation can contain one of, any combination of, or all of a chelating agent, a buffering agent, an anti-oxidant, a cryoprotecting agent, an isotonicity agent and an opioid. The preferred chelating agent is disodium edetate or a derivative thereof. The disodium edetate preferably is at a concentration ranging from between 0.001 and 100 mg/ml, more preferably 0.05 to 25.0 mg/ml, and even more preferably, 0.1 to 2.5 mg/ml. A preferred buffering agent is citrate buffer. The citrate buffer typically is in a concentration ranging from 0.001 to 100.0 mM, preferably from 0.1 to 10 mM, and more preferably, 0.1 to 5.0 mM. A preferred cryoprotecting agent is mannitol.

The composition or preparation preferably has a pH that does not exceed 4.25. More preferably, the pH ranges from 2.0 to 4.0, 3.0 to 4.0, and most preferably, from 3.0 to 3.5.

According to another aspect of the invention, a composition or preparation is provided, which includes a solution of methylnaltrexone or a salt thereof, wherein the preparation after storage at about room temperature for six months has a concentration of methylnaltrexone degradation products that does not exceed 2% of the methylnaltrexone in the preparation. The concentration of the methylnaltrexone degradation products preferably does not exceed 1.5%, 1.0%, 0.5%, 0.25%, and even 0.125% of the methylnaltrexone in the preparation. The composition or preparation can contain one of, any combination of, or all of a chelating agent, a buffering agent, an anti-oxidant, a cryoprotecting agent, an isotonicity agent and an opioid. The preferred chelating agent and concentrations are as described above. The preferred buffering agent and concentrations are as described above. Preferably, the composition or preparation has a pH that does not exceed 4.25. The preferred pHs and ranges are as described above.

According to another aspect of the invention, a stable composition or preparation is provided. The composition or preparation is a solution of methylnaltrexone or a salt thereof wherein the pH is below 4.25. Preferably, the pH is between 2.75 and 4.25, more to preferably, between 3.0 and 4.0, and most preferably, between 3.0 and 3.5. According to conventional procedures, pH can be adjusted with an acid. Examples of acids useful for this purpose include hydrochloric acid, citric acid, sulfuric acid, acetic acid, and phosphoric acid. The stable composition or preparation can also include any one of, any combination of, or all of a chelating agent, a buffering agent, an isotonicity agent, an antioxidant, a cryogenic agent, and an opioid.

According to another aspect of the invention, a stable composition or preparation is provided. The composition or preparation is a solution of methylnaltrexone or salt thereof, wherein the solution further comprises a chelating agent in an amount sufficient to inhibit degradation of the methylnaltrexone or salt thereof, whereby the amount is such that the composition or preparation after autoclaving has a concentration of methylnaltrexone degradation products that does not exceed 0.5%, 0.25% or even 0.125% of the methylnaltrexone or salt thereof in the composition or preparation. The composition or preparation can further include any one of, any combination of, or all of a buffering agent, an isotonicity agent, an antioxidant and an opioid. Preferred chelating agents, buffering agents and pHs are as described above.

According to another aspect of the invention, a composition or preparation is provided. The composition or preparation is a solution of methylnaltrexone or salt thereof in at least one methylnaltrexone degradation inhibiting agent. The agent can be any one of, any combination of, or all of a chelating agent, a buffering agent, and an antioxidant, provided that the solution has a pH ranging from 2.0 to 6.0. The